

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. 1:06-CR-0318-02
	:	
v.	:	(Judge Conner)
	:	
HERMAN MERCADO,	:	
Defendant	:	

ORDER

AND NOW, this 9th day of January , 2008, upon consideration of defendant's motion for substitution of counsel (Doc. 131), and of the response thereto by defendant's court-appointed counsel (Doc. 137), and the court finding that the interests of justice¹ do not necessitate substitution of counsel at this juncture because defendant's current counsel has communicated with defendant with reasonable regularity (see id. at 3 (discussing three visits and two telephone conversations with defendant in four month period), and has appropriately attempted to foster cooperation between defendant and the government (see id. at 3-5), it is hereby ORDERED that defendant's motion for substitution of counsel (Doc. 131) is DENIED.

S/ Christopher C. Conner
CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER
United States District Judge

¹ See 18 U.S.C. § 3006a(c) ("[T]he court may, in the interests of justice, substitute one appointed counsel for another at any stage of the proceedings.").